



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Indiana Division

575 North Pennsylvania Street, Room 254  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

July 9, 2001

Mr. Steve Cecil  
Deputy Commissioner  
Indiana Department of Transportation

Attention: Ms. Janice Osadczuk

Dear Mr. Cecil:

Subject: Indiana's Streamlined EIS Procedures

The purpose of this letter is to distribute "Indiana's Streamlined Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Procedures" (see Enclosure) to INDOT and all the other members of the Environmental Streamlining Task Group. We hereby request that you forward these procedures to the EIS and Environmental Assessment/Corridor Study consultants and implement them in the development of Federal Highway Administration EIS projects. Enclosed is the June 11, 2001 letter from R-5 FTA that supports use of these procedures for joint actions involving FHWA-IN and R-5 FTA.

These Procedures 1) eliminate the duplication of effort between planning and NEPA studies, 2) seek agency input at key decision points, 3) provide a structured interagency coordination process with deadlines and a dispute resolution process (per Section 1309 of TEA-21), 4) provide a structured mechanism for INDOT, FHWA, and the MPO to guide consultant EIS development, and 5) result in timely decisions that avoid project delay.

We want to thank the members of the Environmental Streamlining Task Group for their assistance in developing these procedures. This is meant to be a "living document" and we are open to continuing updates as specific enhancements are identified. By posting the procedures to our website ( <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/indiv/procedures> ), all parties will have the benefit of the latest update.

Sincerely yours,

John R. Baxter, P.E.  
Division Administrator

//signed by LMH//

Lawrence M. Heil, P.E.  
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Enclosures

cc:

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